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C. A. MENET, Representative.



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1909.

MIGHT BE OF GREAT BENEFIT.

With 900 delegates present, the Tariff Commission convention began its sessions at Indianapolis, Tuesday, and will complete its work to-day. The delegates represent commercial and manufacturing organizations throughout the country, and the purpose is to advise the government as to the tariff duties and make recommendations to Congress. The convention has been principally promoted by the National Association of Manufacturers, and the expectation is that enough pressure can be brought upon Congress to secure adoption of this method of securing proper tariff revision.

Of influential backing for the tariff commission plan, there is no lack. President-elect Taft has expressed himself in favor of "a permanent commission of tariff experts" to ascertain the cost of production in our own and other countries and to supply the facts to Congress. President Roosevelt favors the appointment of "a commission of business experts whose duty it should be to recommend action by Congress" and which would "treat the tariff as a business proposition and not from the standpoint of the temporary needs of any political party." Senator Beveridge of Indiana holds that to ascertain tariff facts "we should create a body of experts," and his opinion is endorsed by a considerable number of other public men.

Among the numerous commercial and manufacturing organizations which have aligned themselves for a tariff commission, are the Massachusetts State Board of Trade, Missouri Manufacturers' association, American Hardware Manufacturers' association, Western association of Shoe Wholesalers, Trans-Mississippi Commercial Congress, Carriage Builders' National association, National Paint, Oil and Varnish association, N. Y. Manufacturers' association, Merchant Tailors' National association, St. Louis Cotton Exchange, Chicago Board of Trade, Baltimore Chamber of Commerce, N. T. Merchants' association, National Business League, National Furniture Manufacturers' association, Agricultural and Vehicle Manufacturers' National association and many others.

The central idea of the movement is to secure the appointment of a commission of business experts, not to fix tariff rates but to supply information to Congress and to act in an advisory capacity to Congress. It is believed that this would take the tariff question out of politics, and much more important, would check the "log rolling" process in Congress under which one member supports over-high rates for a product of another's district in exchange for support of similarly wrongful rates for the products of his own district—the "you-tickle-me, I-tickle-you" scheme.

Properly constituted of able and impartial men, such a commission might be of incalculable benefit, if for no other reason than that the interests of consumers would probably receive consideration which is not, under the present system, the fact.

CONSERVATISM VS. RADICALISM.
In a recent interview, one who is called a personal friend of Mr. Bryan stated that he would not be a candidate for President in 1912, but that he would endeavor to assure the nomination of some man who supported the party ticket and platforms in past campaigns, and that he would favor the selection of Judge Harmon of Ohio rather than Gov. Johnson of Minnesota.

According to this personal friend, Mr. Bryan claims that the Democratic gain of 1,315,211 in the popular vote over that of 1904, the election of Democratic Governors in Ohio, Indiana, Minnesota, Nebraska, Colorado, Montana and North Dakota, and the gain of one U. S. Senator each in Indiana and Oregon were due to his Presidential candidacy. This is a novel view. The ordinary observer has probably reached the contrary conclusion, viz., that these gains were made in spite of the Bryan candidacy, and that they indicate a repudiation of the party against the Democratic party but against Mr. Bryan personally. Had all the voters who elected these Democratic Governors, supported Mr. Bryan at the polls, he would have been elected to the Presidency.

There is an at least plausible explanation of these peculiar results of the November election. President Roosevelt had been conducting a bitter campaign against the trusts and the "malefactors of great wealth," and there was a more or less prevalent belief among the people that this campaign brought on the "money panic" and the consequent industrial depression. Mr. Bryan claimed credit for origination of the Roosevelt policy, and was consequently classed by many voters with Roosevelt as a disturber of business prosperity.

On the other hand, Judge Taft was

known to be of conservative tendencies, and though pledged to the Roosevelt policies had made his peace with the great commercial and financial interests, which fact was interpreted as in effect a repudiation of the more radical of the Roosevelt policies, those for which Mr. Bryan claimed the credit of origination. Here we find an ample explanation of the conditions which defeated Mr. Bryan and yet elected Democratic Governors in a number of usually Republican States.

Mr. Taft's election was a victory for conservatism and a defeat for radicalism.

The Norwalk Hour antagonizes the pending bill allowing Sheriffs to appoint a clerk each at \$1,500 a year, because under such a law

Old Hawley, the Fairfield county czar, can appoint a clerk at a big salary to sit in his office, while he is out butting into politics here and there and make himself generally disliked.

Referring to the report of trouble between the "young" and the "old" in the Republican ranks, the Ansonia Sentinel says: "There never was an age limit to the unborn desire for fair play, open methods and an equal chance for all." The troubles thus far are mostly between the "young" and the "old" of Bridgeport, and the Sentinel's statement voices with substantial accuracy the creed of the "young" who assert that they are never allowed either fair play or an equal chance and that "open methods" are the exact reverse of the agencies used against them by the "old."

As both of the new deputy sheriffs appointed for Norwalk by Sheriff Hawley supported Hill in the late Senatorial contest, it is intimated that he is endeavoring in this way to lessen the hostility caused by his active and effective opposition to the Hill candidacy. The Farmer hesitates to accept this explanation. Sheriff Hawley's appeal to Senator Brandegee for aid in the contest over the Bridgeport City Court judgeship indicates rather an intention of continuing the war upon Hill supporters than of conciliating them. If he appointed Hill men to offices in Norwalk, it was probably because he couldn't find any suitable Brandegee men there, if any at all.

Blankets and comforters at a great reduction. Lee Bros. Furniture Co., 1179 Main street.

STRATFORD

The Passing Show—Fire Chiefs—Off for California—An Open Winter—Mrs. Bristol's Party—Coming of Lent

The entertainment which is to be given Tuesday evening, the 23d, in the Sunday school room of the Methodist church, under the auspices of the Sunday school and the Camera Club, promises to be both novel and interesting. The program will be divided into three parts, the first consisting of musical selections, the second of literary and musical selections, and the third of telepathy. A portion of the proceeds will be for the piano fund and a large attendance is hoped for so that the remaining debt for the piano may be extinguished. Old and young will enjoy the evening.

Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Beach and Miss Ethel Beach will leave for California where they expect to remain for two months. Sunday last Rev. Mr. Cornwall, the rector of Christ church, delivered two excellent sermons on the following themes: "Darwin Without the Bible," and "Lincoln With the Bible."

It appears that the town is full of men who will gladly assume the position of fire chief, if it is offered to them. They are only modestly waiting to be asked. This is a very satisfactory conclusion of the whole matter.

Yesterday afternoon Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Blamey gave a reception to the Rebekah Sewing Society. A company of men, consisting of Louis F. Peck, C. D. Mills, and William Appleby, have been asked to draw up a set of resolutions of sympathy to be presented to Miss Wm.

While the streets were so terribly muddy on Tuesday as to cause complaint, Nature wrought one of her miracles during the night, and on Wednesday morning all the mud had disappeared.

Mrs. H. G. Lowenbein, who has been visiting her brother, Samuel Lowenbein, on Stamford avenue, sailed for Europe on Monday. She will visit Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Schiedam, and Paris.

Four young men took their sweethearts over to Bridgeport a few evenings since to see "Way Down East." One of the couples was Miss Dora Richardson and Charles Brewer.

Clarence Bosler has opened a shop for the plumbing business.

Some 20 local Odd Fellows took a spin over to Derby last Monday to pay a social visit.

Our local weather observer says there were but four clear days in January, eight partly cloudy and nineteen cloudy.

Those who have been in the habit of saying that an open or green winter makes a fat graveyard will have to make an exception in favor of the present winter, during which there has been exceptionally good health. True, a good many deaths have occurred in town, but they were either old people or those of giving a cold or some constitutional complaint. The weather is not responsible for these.

A German whist and a Valentine party have been given at Grange hall, which was much enjoyed by the young people.

It is now said that the case of Mrs. Moran, alluded to in yesterday's Farmer, was not a hospital case, and therefore she was not sent to such an institution. The doctor reported back to the authorities the view he took of the matter, and they agreed with him. Not every case of sickness can be sent to a hospital.

The board of relief will hold its final meeting next Monday. This will be the last chance to swear off taxes.

It is said that Mrs. Ward has over 100 illustrations for her forthcoming lecture on Shakespeare.

A young lady of town has given a "Heart Party." It is the very latest and sweetest thing out.

The High school basketball team thinks of giving a food sale before the season closes.

Lieut. and Mrs. W. B. Whittlesey, well known in town, have reached Rome, where they are doing the sights and having a good time.

During the recent Lincoln observances at the High school, Fred Conline read Lowell's Commendation. This Ode, Mrs. Everett Williams has returned to Hartford, after a week in dear old Stratford.

There is to be a delightful whist at the Devon club house on the night of Washington's Birthday.

Miss Pauline Stagg, of this town, helped to pour the tea at Mrs. E. P. Barnd's reception yesterday.

The wife of our popular postmaster, Mrs. Bristol, gave a very enjoyable Valentine bridge whist party and dinner. The following gentlemen with

their wives were present: H. W. Edwell, Edward H. Beers, Charles F. Judson, Sidney S. Boardley, Frederick O. and David L. Rhoades, Frank M. Patterson, Charles S. Shuman, Frank L. Curtis, Edmund H. Judson, and Clayton K. Blakeslee and his mother, Mrs. Charles Blakeslee.

The grocery business will be carried on as usual at the Wells store, on Hard's corner. William Fryer is to be manager.

It is reported that Harry Lewis has gone to Texas.

Walter Blue remains on the sick list.

One day after Washington's birthday Lent begins. Then no more Assembly dances, Embroidery clubs, straw rides, whist parties, or meeting of the firemen to consolidate.

The Cooper family has gone from Stratford avenue to Devon.

Miss Marjorie Maynard is sick in New Haven.

Most disgusting skin eruptions, scrofula, pimples, rashes, etc., are due to impure blood. Burdock Blood Bitters is a cleansing blood tonic. Makes you clear-eyed, clear-brained, clear-skinned. #246

FAIRFIELD

Board of Review—Electricity—Hunting for Farms—Vital Statistics—More Mosaic Glass Windows.

Yesterday the board of review held its last public meeting at the town house. A good number of people were present hoping to get their taxes abated. It is not understood that there has been any unusual complaint this year in regard to the assessments.

Talking with one of the incorporators of the Fairfield Electric Light Company yesterday, he said that work would be pushed as soon as the spring opens, and the gentlemen of the illuminating company of Bridgeport will put up their own poles to carry the cable.

Out of regard for the feelings of the residents of the center of the town, a proposition is now being considered to place the wires underground along Main and Broad streets, and probably to a point beyond the post office, for it is thought likely the lines will be continued to Southport.

Already gentlemen are coming to town looking for places to rent for the summer, where they can have some land, and keep poultry, and possibly a horse and a cow. So far as known there are not more than two or three such places in town. One of these is the house on Wakeman avenue which was used last summer by the Y. M. C. A. of Bridgeport for a summer resort for young men. It did not prove to be as attractive as was expected or else the young men of the city did not feel like incurring the expense incidental to a residence at the club house.

Signs of spring are not wanting in town this early in the season. Yesterday W. C. Kinneale noticed that the lilac bushes on his lawn are in full bud, and sending up new sprouts, and in several places red buds have appeared under the maple trees, while in the grounds of the Flint mansion under the large fir trees, the grass is as green as in April.

There was but one wedding in town last month, that of James E. Doucette to Ada May Beers. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Frank S. Child.

Mr. Dalling was at work yesterday improving the sidewalks in the center of the town, and attending to the grading of gravel, and in some instances crushed stone. The street which runs past the post office out to the house occupied by the Flint mansion, is being improved in this manner. It has been very muddy and needed attention.

An opossum weighing 21 pounds was killed a day or two ago on the road. Hill and is now ripening in the ice box of Carl Och's restaurant preparatory to a dinner which will soon be served.

Postmaster and Mrs. Pickett went to Yonkers yesterday to attend the funeral of Mrs. Pickett's brother-in-law, the husband of her sister.

Miss Mabel Pickett has gone to Franklin, Mass., to attend the celebration of Founder's Day at the school where she was educated.

The births in town during January were as follows: Edith C. Ross, to Mr. and Mrs. Frank Ross, on the 4th; a boy to Mr. and Mrs. William Brullich, on the 30th; Paula E. Fredericks, to Mr. and Mrs. Earl Robert Fredericks, on the 13th; Jennie M. Nichols, to Mr. and Mrs. Henry B. Nichols, on the 11th; Bertie Toth, to Mr. and Mrs. Andreas Toth, on the 8th; William W. Murphy, to Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Murphy, on the 13th; John E. Mortensen, to Mr. and Mrs. Niels Mortensen, on the 20th; and Victorine J. Grasso, to Mr. and Mrs. Prospero Grasso, on the 7th.

Mrs. John R. Taylor, wife of the contractor and builder, with her two children, left town Tuesday evening for Rockland, Me., to attend the funeral of her mother.

Yesterday men were at work for the Hydraulic Company, laying pipes to carry water to the east bound depot. It is known that the street railway company is anxious to light its depots in town with electricity, and thus get rid of the dangerous kerosene lamps which have more than once set the depot on fire during the past year.

A great deal of freight is now arriving at the depot, so much that both sidings are taxed to their fullest capacity. A good deal of the freight consists of coal, aluminum, flour for the various grocery stores, and other merchandise.

The Fire Company held a meeting on Tuesday night and transacted the usual routine business.

The Foresters held one of their regular meetings last night.

It is known in town that a wealthy gentleman, once a resident, but said now to be of New York, proposes to present the Congregational church with a series of windows to be made by Tiffany, to correspond with the costly mosaic windows presented by Miss Anna B. Jennings. The drawings have already been made, and the subject to be illustrated in the picture plaques is the flower of the field and the fruit of the vine. These windows, if realized, will be placed on the northern side of the church. It is known that such windows are very costly, those by Miss Jennings costing some \$10,000.

It is said that notwithstanding the severe storm there was a good audience at the Pequot library on Tuesday night to listen to a lecture by Miss Mabel West of New York, on the Zoological Garden of New York. She was once employed in the garden and could speak by the book.

Miss Mabel Sherwood is visiting her sons, Chester and Frank, in Syracuse, N. Y. She expects to be absent for a fortnight.

Tuesday afternoon while in the act of carrying a bag of feed from the house of Mrs. John Wilson to the barn, Frederick Nichols, of the Fairfield Woods district, fell dead in the roadway. He was 67 years of age and had been employed on the Wilson place for 22 years. The funeral took place this afternoon from the house of Mrs. Wilson.

Saturday at Thing's Shoe Store. An unusual opportunity for people to save money at Thing's shoe store Saturday. A number of their regular lines of shoes will have special prices on them. Here's a great chance to supply your shoe wardrobe. In the cases of these shoes there's practically a third shaved off their actual worth. They are bargains worth investigating. Remember Saturday at Thing's Shoe Store, 1153 Main street.

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We still have a good assortment of Men's and Boys' Gloves and Mittens. 10c to \$5.00

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Men's "V" Neck Sweaters 1.50 to 4.00
Men's Sweater Coats 1.50 to 4.75
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Striking Bags \$1.50 to \$7.00
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Boxing Shoes 2.00
Gymnasium Shirts50
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